



THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CLOSELY RELATED TO THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

5757 South University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637-1507 (773) 752-5757 FAX (773) 752-5925

Development Office

May 13, 1997

Dear Pastor:

We write to you regarding the Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS), as a member of its Board of Trustees and as a 1995 graduate, respectively. We believe that CTS and the members and churches of the UFMCC have much to gain from each other.

CTS, a progressive seminary founded in 1855 by the Congregational churches, has a strong heritage of openness to all denominations (more than 22 denominations represented) and faith traditions (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and unaffiliated). Throughout its history, the Seminary has led the way in work for social justice, unintimidated by issues simply because of the controversy they might create. It has a distinguished record of setting trends in church life and leadership for over a century.

For over 25 years, CTS has welcomed openly lesbian gay persons. In the past five years, 10 UFMCC students have studied and/or graduated from CTS. Since November 1994, CTS has maintained a **dual enrollment program with Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies** whereby UFMCC students may pursue a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree at CTS while completing proficiency requirements in the UFMCC, as administered by Samaritan. UFMCC students at CTS have access to all the scholarship, financial aid and federally-guaranteed loan programs administered by CTS.

The commitment of CTS to the training of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered leaders is set within the wider context of the Seminary's commitment to transform church and society. The CTS **student body is multi-cultural, multi-national and multi-denominational** – a diverse environment for the preparation of able ministers. Lesbian gay students are encouraged to develop a theological foundation which provides a grounding for ministry both in their immediate contexts and in wider society. At both the masters and doctoral levels, students are prepared academically and practically to become leaders of their communities.

If you are interested in further information about CTS, please don't hesitate to contact either of us, or to contact the Seminary directly (see enclosed info sheet). We hope that you will explore ways for you and your congregation to partner with the CTS. Your support could take the form of prayers, financial support and/or active promotion of study at CTS within your church community. Together, we can work to make this society more open and just for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and all other persons.

Sincerely,

Richard N. Peterson, Esq.
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Chicago Theological Seminary
Member, Good Shepherd Parish MCC
(GSP MCC) Chicago, IL

Rev. Bradley E. Mickelson ('95)
Pastor, Metropolitan Community
Church of the Incarnation (MCCI)
Oak Park, IL

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY... COMMITTED TO INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

- Has adopted a Statement of Commitment that promises that the Seminary is “committed, while the church and society are threatened by new forces of division under the banner of homophobia, to developing leadership for a more inclusive church and society;”
- Maintains an official non-discrimination policy inclusive of sexual orientation that applies to admission, scholarships, housing and all other aspects of Seminary life;
- Has several openly gay faculty and staff members;
- Regularly offers coursework in the areas of Bible, tradition and sexual orientation, surveying the implications for hermeneutics, ecclesiology and the social justice efforts of religious leaders;
- Has one of the most extensive collections of lesbian and gay publications in its library of any seminary in the country;
- Maintains a chartered student organization, the Heyward-Boswell Society (HBS), for “self-identified gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students and staff and their supporters.” HBS is named in honor of Episcopal priest Carter Heyward and historian John Boswell. “HBS strives to offer the prophetic gifts of witness and education which proclaim God’s work and call in all lives, regardless of sexual orientation;”
- Has twice hosted the Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Seminarians Conference;
- Is the first mainline seminary to endow a scholarship for lesbian and gay students. The Gilberto Castaneda Fund was created in 1993; and
- Is the location for services and offices of Resurrection MCC (formerly Church of the Resurrection MCC).

For more information, contact:

Michael Glass, Director of Development (773.752.5757 ext.245)

Veronica O’Neill Morrison, Director of Admissions (773.752.5757 ext. 221)

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE...

WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!

CTS is a place which values the variety of ministries to which individuals and communities have been called. We find that bringing these commitments together (in the form of students!) sharpens our academic programs. Contact with "the cutting edge" of local churches' work across the world challenges our faculty in the shaping of curriculum. We are truly "no ivory tower" (the title of the book detailing our history).

So... we'd like to know about **your church's work**. What's your neighborhood like? Who are your church members? What programs do you offer? What social issues, in addition to homophobia and heterosexism, do you face? What are your celebrations? Where do you need help?

We ask for your response only so that we may get to know you better as we explore our partnership in ministry. The sole reason for this questionnaire is to put names and faces to the MCC family of leaders in ministry.

If you have any questions, contact Jacki Belile at 773.752.5757 ext 264.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Church Name:

Correct Address:

Contact Name:

Facts we should know (continue on reverse side):



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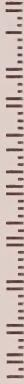
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The Chicago Theological Seminary

5757 University Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637-9960



ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Chicago Theological Seminary

Enclosed is my/our tax deductible Annual Fund

GIFT _____ PLEDGE _____ of

\$ _____

Please include me/us in the:

- ☐ Victor Lawson Society (\$100,000 cumulative)
- ☐ Ozora Davis Society (at least \$5,000)
- ☐ Graham Taylor Society (\$2,500-4,999)
- ☐ Faulkner-Gray Society (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- ☐ Anton Boisen Society (\$500-999)
- ☐ Florence Fensham Society (\$250-499)
- ☐ Fred Eastman Society (\$100-249)

In Addition:

- ☐ I have notified my employer regarding a MATCHING GIFT.
- ☐ I have sent the MATCHING GIFT form to the Seminary.
- ☐ I have included CTS in my WILL.
- ☐ I wish to receive information regarding academic programs.
- ☐ I think the person identified below would be interested in knowing more about the Seminary:

☐ Please check here if this is a change of address

Mr./Ms./Mrs./Rev./Dr. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

Church/Synagogue _____ City _____

Please send:

Development:

- ☐ Information on Annual Fund
- ☐ Information on Major Gifts Campaign
- ☐ Information on Planned Giving Opportunities:
 - ☐ Bequests
 - ☐ Real Estate
 - ☐ Annuities
 - ☐ Trusts
 - ☐ Other _____

This gift is for:

- ☐ Annual Fund (Unrestricted)
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- ☐ Scholarship Fund: _____
- ☐ Center for Jewish Christian Studies
- ☐ Other: _____

Please make checks payable to: THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
(the Seminary's fiscal year ends June 30)

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